

VANDALS WORKED WHILE THE SENATE KILLED TREATY

Bearded Men Seen After the Painting Is Cut.

SEARCHING FOR CLEWS

Two men, one of them bearded, both clad in black, were seen coming slowly down the steps from the Senate gallery after the ancient treaty with Russia had been abrogated unanimously, and the Capitol police, with the Secret Service men now working on the case, believe that they were the vandals who last Tuesday night slashed the historic painting of the "Battle of Lake Erie."

Detectives F. N. Webster, J. L. Barnard, and Quarles all have more or less accurate descriptions of the two men. Those persons who were in the Senate gallery and who passed the two strangers told detectives yesterday that they were conversing excitedly in a foreign language.

AT HEAD OF STAIRS.

They were last seen when they reached the head of the stairway that leads from the gallery of the Senate to the main corridor below. The giant painting, 20 feet by 10 feet, hangs midway the stairway. Though none of the guards saw the men as they started down stairs, it is known that they were about the only visitors who had an opportunity to slit the painting.

All last night an extra detail of the Capitol police, with the Secret Service men, worked untiringly to unravel the mystery of the mutilated picture. The lower corridors and driveways, with the lamps and flower beds, were searched for the knife with which the mutilation was done.

The big strip cut from the lower edge and to the left of the row boat in which Commodore Perry stands was found lying at the base of the picture. Whether the vandals had left it there deliberately or whether it had at first intended to take it and had been frightened away is one of the puzzles to which, as yet, no satisfactory answer has been offered.

Three Capitol detectives were within thirty yards of the huge picture when the vandals or vandals were at work, yet heard nothing. The Senate adjourned at 7:30 o'clock, and it was not until after 9 when Policemen Nichols, Beck, and Ernest, descending the stairs, found the damage done.

Can Repair Damage.

The damage done to the painting can be repaired, but it will necessitate removing the picture and the original beauty can hardly be entirely restored. The painting was made in 1875, and it was hung at the east end of the Senate wing facing the stairway, where hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Capitol have admired it. The painting shows the battle in progress and Commodore Perry, who won fame in the engagement, is shown in an open boat passing from his flagship to another.

The picture cost \$40,000 and is regarded as the finest naval painting in the country.

Potatoes that show a violet tint are said to be the highest in nutritive value.

YALE WELL KNOWN IN FAR AWAY CHINA

Dr. E. H. Hume Describes Conditions Before Alumni.

Democracy and discipline are the moving spirits of modern college education in China, according to Dr. E. H. Hume, head of the medical department of Yale College of China, at Changsha, province of Hunan, who gave an illustrated talk at a smoker of the Yale Alumni Association at the Playhouse last night. His theme was "Present-day conditions in China," and his most interesting pictures were those of rebel soldiers of the Celestial kingdom wearing white sashes, the sign of rebellion.

He said Yale is better known in China than any other American college, and that its work in the field of education is bearing splendid fruit. Dr. Hume predicted a wonderful future for China, and contended that Yale would be one of the great factors in bringing about this condition.

Dr. McChung, '12, presided, and introduced Brig. Gen. Henry Beebe Carrington, U. S. A., retired, of the class of '82, who was enthusiastically cheered. Dr. Hume ascended the platform to give reminiscences of his alma mater. In his speech he told of his great-grandfather, Dr. Beebe, of the class of 1785, Gen. Carrington, who is eighty-eight years old, is not the oldest member of the Washington Yale Alumni Association. Mr. Augustus Smith, of the class of '92, will be ninety-six on January 20. Mr. Smith was detained last night, but attended the Yale banquet at the Raleigh last winter.

PHARMACY ILLS TOLD BY EXPERT

W. A. Puckner Reads Treatise at Local Meeting.

Facts and figures follow the use of many of the products put upon the market by manufacturing pharmacists, according to W. A. Puckner, of Chicago, secretary of the council on pharmacy and chemistry of the American Medical Association, who read a treatise on "The physician and the pharmacist" at the annual meeting of the Washington branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association held at the National College of Pharmacy last night.

Dr. Puckner said the doubtful character of many of the preparations of manufacturing pharmacists have created a tendency on the part of physicians to return to the professional pharmacist for their supplies of reliable and effective remedies. This demand, said Dr. Puckner, can be met by pharmacists by applying their art to the production of preparations of a higher degree of efficiency.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Lewis F. Plummer, president; Lyman E. Keblir, first vice president; H. E. Kahaner, second vice president; Henry B. Lloyd, secretary and member of council; W. H. Bradbury, treasurer; Herbert C. Easterday, committee on membership; William S. Richardson, committee on legislation; Frank C. Henry, committee on medical relations; Rodney H. True, scientific communications, and Martin I. Wilbert, publicity.

APPEALS FOR LOWER FARES IN VIRGINIA

Attorney to Present Case to the I. C. C.

The Interstate Commerce Commission will grant a hearing to-morrow morning on the question of reducing the alleged excessive rates of the Washington-Virginia Railway between Washington and Mount Vernon, Fairfax, and Alexandria. The commission will also be asked to issue an order compelling the railway company to offer special rates to Virginia children attending school in the District.

In order to impress upon the commission the need of reducing the rates for the purpose of encouraging education among the large number of children in Virginia who come to Washington to attend school, Attorney Frederick R. Whipple, who is representing patrons of the railway, is collecting statistics on the number of Virginia children who attend school in Washington. To aid in this task, Attorney Whipple requests all children to send their names to his office, 221 Woodward Building.

The testimony which the commission will hear will be in the case of Dr. J. H. Bitzer and others against the railway company. Mr. Whipple will request that the "second class" rates be reduced, and that school rates be offered to school children under twenty-one years of age. At present a half-rate fare is offered to school children between the ages of five and twelve years. The proposed school rate is much less than the half rate.

"COP" WAS INSANE WHEN HE RESIGNED

Wife Says So, and Asks for a Pension.

The District Commissioners were made defendants in a mandamus suit filed yesterday by Mae G. Carlson, wife of Carl A. Carlson, a janitor. The petition alleges that Carlson was a member of the Metropolitan police for more than twenty consecutive years, during which time he became insane and was committed to the Government Hospital for the Insane by the District Surgeon, Dr. J. H. Carlson. It was ordered by the Commissioners on September 16, 1910, to submit to the superintendent of police his resignation, to become effective if he was again charged with being intoxicated, he having been tried for intoxication and found guilty prior to September 10, 1910, discharged being the penalty imposed in the case.

May 18, 1911, he was again charged with being intoxicated, and July 12 last, twenty-five days after he had become insane, the Commissioners accepted his resignation, and dropped him from the rolls. It is alleged that he was insane when he tendered his resignation, and therefore incapable of legally doing so. It is also alleged that he had served more than fifteen years as a member of the police force, thereby entitling him to a pension irrespective of whether he was disabled in the line of duty or not. The Commissioners denied the application of the petitioner for a pension for Carlson, stating his disability was not incurred in line of duty.

Justice Stafford signed a rule to show cause on or before January 12, 1912, why a writ of mandamus should not be issued against the Commissioners requiring them to grant his pension. J. T. Money and W. E. Andrews are the attorneys for the petitioner. This is the first case on record where it is contended that a policeman after serving fifteen years and becoming disabled is entitled to a pension.

NAVY SLIGHTED, HE SAYS

Rear Admiral Chester Deplores the Lack of Good Historian.

Declaring the people of our land give much just praise to the army, but that the brave men of the navy have not received all the homage due them, Rear Admiral C. M. Chester, U. S. N., last night, before the District of Columbia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, at Rauscher's, gave an account of "a naval affair of the two wars with the mother country," by the romance of the story of Rebecca Chester Reid and her son, Samuel Chester Reid, and credited the lack of just praise for the naval heroes in the absence of a real naval historian of the early Revolutionary period.

Prof. S. M. Ely presented "Some underlying causes of the American Revolution," in which he gave a number of new viewpoints. Col. William B. Thompson, president of the society, presided, and the meeting opened with the presentation of the colors and the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" by the members under direction of Dr. Francis J. Woodman. Several tenor solos were given by Mr. Bowle, with accompaniment by Prof. James E. Bagley, organist at St. Paul's P. E. Church.

New members admitted last night were William Bogart Cobb, Watson William Kidgley, William Heyner, Overton Clay Luskford, John Columbus Scantling, and Philip Lee Scantling. Following the addresses, a buffet supper was served, after which a smoker was held. The reception committee was composed of Robert R. Bennett, John Mason Brown, Appleton P. Clark, Eugene E. Stevens, Morris L. Croxall, H. H. Donnelly, William A. Donner, Henry C. Gauss, Frank F. Greene, Richard P. Hayes, Robert S. Hume, and William A. Gaus.

The next meeting of the society will be the annual "ladies' night," and will be held at Rauscher's January 17.

CHRISTMAS PLAY TO-DAY

The Dramatic Club of St. Patrick's Sunday school will present a mystery play of the birth of our Saviour this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock in Carroll Hall. The play was written by Rev. Robert H. Benson, and, as yet, has never been produced in America. It consists of five acts. The scenes are laid in Bethlehem and its neighboring hills.

The cast consists of the following persons: Messrs. Dennis E. Connell, John C. Allen, Oliver J. Le Beau, Paul Hines, James McKee, Edward Mitchell, Rivers Townsend, Miss Estelle Murray, Master Joseph W. Lucas, and Misses Annie Connell, Marjorie Corcoran, and Helen Gantley.

Present for Brightwood.

As a Christmas present from the Interstate Commerce Commission, the residents of Brightwood will receive the better street car service they have been asking for during the last two weeks. An average headway of a little less than two minutes will be the rule when the Washington Railway and Electric Company, following the commission's direction, puts on its new cars.

This order goes into effect on December 22. It supercedes the order adopted in November by which new cars were to be run on the road, but which did not provide a sufficient number of conveyances.

"KISMET" IS GIVEN BEFORE BIG HOUSE

Otis Skinner Plays Stellar Role in New Piece.

A new Richmond came forth full-panoplied in the theatrical lists last evening, and a new rival to "The Garden of Allah" was launched. The first performance in the United States of "Kismet," with Otis Skinner in the stellar role, was given in Washington, and among the notable events of the present season this brilliant enactment of a new play will not be ranked among the least.

"Kismet" is play and spectacle, wild-ly imaginative, and almost barbaric in its scenic magnificence. Edward Knoblauch is the author, and he truly describes it as a "new Arabian Night." It is in this indeed. It is a Maxfield Parrish extra illustrated edition of the Arabian Nights, an ocular orgy, something which is rescued from the vacuity of sheer spectacle by a certain literary cleverness and a recurrent Omar Khayyamish fantasy—the quintessence of "Kismet"—which runs through the fabric of the play, if it can be called.

"Kismet" is a succession of scenes strung together with much the same sequence and relevance as the tales of "Sinbad the Sailor" or "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp." It makes a composite whole, however. It is leavened by a strangely fascinating Oriental symbolism—vide the name of the play. Sometimes one wishes the pictorial values of the performance were less obvious and oppressive. It would be impossible to swamp acting of such quality as Otis Skinner's with scenery in any event, but "Kismet," gorgeously beautiful as it is, draws near to such a situation. It leaves nothing to the imagination. Surely it is not too much to say that the bulk of the applause lavished upon the production at the National Theater last evening was a tribute to the scene painter, whose splendid work, assuredly, will do more to make "Kismet" one of the most talked-about productions of the season than all other elements combined.

In all justice, it must be said that such overabundant pictorial achievements as "The Garden of Allah" and "The Sign of the Cross" are more than an ordinary play. London recognized it last season as a remarkable transposition of the spirit of "The Arabian Nights" to the stage, perhaps the most remarkable in the history of the theater. It will unquestionably be borne to success on the strength of its bizarre spirit and its scenic novelties, even if "The Garden of Allah" will dull the stage after a season or so.

To a sophisticated Washington audience little need be said about the polished and fine-flavored art of Otis Skinner. As Hajj, the Moorish beggar, he has a long and important part in the play of oriental fatalism. How cleverly he cast aside all of the romantic and emotional elements of his equipment last evening and gave a chemically exact portrait of the whirling, dervish, hypercritical, yet lovable Hajj, is a study which will delight the entire Skinner following throughout the country.

It is strange to see the names of Klaw & Erlanger and Harrison Grey Fiske associated on a programme, but if future collaborations result in such enjoyable productions as "Kismet," it is to be hoped the alliance will be continued.

MONEY BOARD MEETS

The advisability of permitting national banks to loan money on real estate and authorizing the establishment of savings banks departments was under consideration at yesterday's session of the Monetary Commission. No particular opposition to the suggested plan was manifested, but there was no crystallization of sentiment.

It was said that the trust companies that now, with State and private banks, enjoy a monopoly of loans on real estate, would offer no opposition to the extension of such authority to national banks.

During the discussion it was shown that in some States the State banks have gradually driving national banks out of business. In those localities the deposits of the State banks were larger than those of national institutions.

This was claimed to be due to more liberal loan legislation that permitted them to loan on realty. The Monetary Commission will report its bill by January 8, the day upon which, by statutory limitation, it expires. Members do not expect to obtain consideration of the proposed monetary legislation at this session, but they do look forward confidentially to Congressional action next year.

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